

**Amendments to the specification:**

[0026] Another embodiment of a laryngoscope blade 400 is illustrated in the top view of Figure 4. As illustrated, this embodiment includes a main blade portion 402, a blade tip ~~412~~ 411 that is located at a distal end 404 of the main blade portion 402, a blade base 408 that is coupled to a proximal end 406 of the main blade portion 402 and a light source 410. The blade tip ~~412~~ 411 has a tip width 405 that is wider than the main blade portion width 403. Also illustrated in Figure 4 is a second tongue displacement plate 412 that is adapted to displace the tongue of a patient when using the laryngoscope 400. In this embodiment, the second tongue displacement plate 412 has a displacement length 407 that is significantly less than the main blade portion length 409. In one embodiment, the displacement length 407 is less than half the length of the main blade portion length 409. This allows for better maneuverability of the laryngoscope blade 400 and provides a better viewing channel.

[0027] A side view of another embodiment of a laryngoscope blade 500 is illustrated in Figure 5. As illustrated, this laryngoscope blade 500 includes a main blade portion 502, a blade base 508 coupled to the main blade portion 502 at a proximal end 514 of the main blade portion 502 and a blade tip ~~412~~ 411 extending from a distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. The main blade portion 502 has an posterior surface 510 that extends along the length of the main blade portion 502. As illustrated in this embodiment, the blade tip ~~412~~ 411 extends from the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502 at a select obtuse angle 506 from the posterior surface 510 of the main blade portion 502. In one embodiment, angle 506 is about 165 degrees. However, it will be understood in the art that angle 506 can vary depending on the length of the main blade portion 502 and the depth of cutout portion 520. Cutout portion 520 is described in further detail below.

[0028] Also illustrated in Figure 5 is first tongue displacement plate 512 and the second tongue displacement plate 412. In one embodiment, the first tongue displacement plate 512 extends from the blade 502 from a side of the blade 502 that is opposite of a side in which the blade tip ~~512~~ 411 flares out wider than width ~~403~~ of the main blade portion 502. As with the other embodiments of the present invention, the first tongue displacement plate 512 and the second tongue displacement plate 412 work together to displace the tongue of a patient. Both the first and second tongue displacement plates 512 and 412 are located proximate the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. In one embodiment, the length of the first tongue displacement plate 512 and the second tongue displacement plate 412 is less than half of the length of the blade 502. By having the length of the first tongue displacement plate 512 and the second tongue displacement plate 412 less than the length of the blade 502, a cutout portion 520 is created that provides clearance for a patient's teeth during use. Moreover, the relatively short length of the first tongue displacement plate 512 and the second tongue displacement plate 512 allow for added maneuverability and a better channel of view. The angled blade tip ~~514~~ 411 and the cutout portion 520 of the laryngoscope work together to provide added maneuverability. In fact, one of the advantages of these features is that laryngoscope 500 can be used as a traditional curved blade (i.e. the cutout portion and the tip angel 506 replicate the functions of the traditional curved blade). Laryngoscope 500 can also be used as a traditional straight blade. Accordingly, a single embodiment of the present invention can replace both the traditional as well as the curved blades.

[0029] Referring to Figure 6, a back view of one embodiment of a laryngoscope 600 of the present invention is illustrated. This back side illustration of the laryngoscope 600 is similar to the laryngoscopes of Figures 5 and 4. Figure 6 illustrates a handle connection portion ~~502~~ 603 of the blade base 508. Also illustrated is the blade connector plate 602 that is coupled to blade base 508. Also illustrated are the first tongue displacement plate 512 and the second tongue displacement plate 412. As illustrated, the blade connector plate 602 and a main blade portion

504 in this embodiment is curved. Also illustrated in Figure 6 is the second tongue displacement plate 412 extending from the first tongue displacement plate 512 at approximately a perpendicular angle. One aspect of this embodiment, as shown, is that the blade connection portion 602 is connected to the blade base ~~502~~ 508 in such a manner that it does not extend beyond the depth of the blade base ~~502~~ 508. This allows for added top teeth clearance in the cutout section 520. In particular, in this embodiment, a bottom portion 606 of the blade base 502 has a channel 608 upon which the blade connection plate 602 of the main blade portion ~~04~~ 502 is received.

[0030] Referring to Figure 7, a method of using a laryngoscope 700 having a laryngoscope blade 702 of one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. ~~IN~~ In particular, a patient is illustrated as having an oral cavity (A), a laryngopharynx (B), a tongue (C), an epiglottis (D), an aditus of larynx (E), a trachea (F), vocal cords (G), an esophagus (H) and a cricoid cartilage ring (I). Also illustrated is the anterior direction (AT) and the posterior direction (PT). In this method, the user grasps the handle 708 and inserts the laryngoscope blade 702 into the oral cavity (A) of the patient. The tongue displacement plate 706, which is located proximate a distal end of the laryngoscope blade 702, engages the tongue C to move the tongue C out of a viewing channel. The flared blade tip 407 is then positioned under the epiglottis (D). The epiglottis (D) is then lifted away to expose the aditus of larynx (E) by rotating the blade 702 into the epiglottis (D). Lifting the epiglottis (D) away from the aditus of larynx (E) is how a typical straight blade is used. However, the relatively shallow blade 702 at a proximal end provides added top teeth clearance during rotation with the present invention. Moreover, the relatively thin blade 702 with a flared blade tip 704 provides added maneuverability and visibility.